

Letter Nelson Dear

10/4/83

Dear Walter,

The past 3 days must be recorded as one of  
blowing for both of us. For me it has been one of  
many details of your current project. I believe  
that you have learnt something and that is the  
depth of the current interest in Half Cents. I  
<sup>believe</sup> also that as it unfolds you will be amazed  
how much is currently known by many people.  
The reason for this is in the past. I take  
'Per a Hand' to set forth my thoughts of the  
future. The Weekes has not contributed materially  
to my knowledge of Half Cents, rather I felt that  
it was inaccurate information. The date on the 1800  
coin which I showed you was dated to me  
in 1973 when I acquired the coin of family.

believe I can contribute a great deal to a  
JOINT book on the subject. This contribution is the  
result of the past 10 years in which I have  
served as a clearing house of half-cent information.

If you so desire you can create a color-  
brown rivalry - I do not wish to be the one to  
create it. Rather I would much prefer an amalgamation  
as I firmly believe that the <sup>future</sup> course of half-cent  
numerators can be the beneficiary of our efforts.

There are some considerations which I desire that  
you address your self to.

I am required to my best of ability to finance  
commitment to anyone other than myself. Should  
I cease at this point I can well absorb the  
financial costs. are you or can you be in  
this position? Should you have some problem with  
this it upon being advised of the facts may be  
able to offer a solution.

2. My Manuscript is Complete except as to possible  
corrections and our Continuity should be exact

3. My photographs will have no relationship to  
what was previously published. In the process of  
my printing they will not be needed prior  
to typesetting and proofing. Due to my prior  
experience they are the last thing I will need.  
Plate sections are scheduled and will be completed  
independently of the main text and made

4. Revision of Joint Manuscript. My format  
is already decided for the 2nd Edition but I am not  
addressing to change. My basic purpose is to present  
as much data as one can on each variety. The only  
contemplated change is the additional information as  
to specific cases. There are only about 100  
specimens of *Hesperis* which we have. We have many *desquamata* but  
these can be described - if not both descriptions  
could be presented - Thus leaves to the future the  
field of *desquamata*

I have at this point "the book is in  
form" - No further intended or has been

L. S. S.

ROGER S. COHEN, JR., P.A.  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS  
4701 SANGAMORE ROAD  
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20816

PHONE: (301) 229-7700

ROGER S. COHEN, JR., C.P.A.

MICHAEL E. REGAN, C.P.A.

DANIEL A. SMITH, C.P.A.

March 15, 1982

Mr. Jack Collins  
President, American Institute of Numismatic  
Research  
2840 Indiana Avenue  
South Gate CA 90280

Dear Jack:

Many thanks for extending to me the courtesy of viewing the manuscript and the Galley Proofs of your Half Cent book that you had at the recent EAC Meeting. It is not my purpose to review in this letter all of what I read, but I must state that there was nothing new to me in the way of text material which came to my attention.

One area of concern to me, is your Condition Census. I pointed out to you at the Meeting the non existence of an 1808 CMM #1 which was listed. The source of the error was Milt Pfeffer's article in "Penny Wise" a number of years ago, which despite my protests at that time remained uncorrected. There are many other inaccuracies in the Condition Census, but none which concern me personally. I believe that the cause of accuracy in Half Cent Numismatics demands that I point out this error.

Another area of concern to me is the listing of my name as a current owner in your Condition Census. Will you please use the term "Arlington Collector".

Thanking you in advance, I am

Sincerely yours,

Roger S. Cohen, Jr.

P.S. Please contact me after April 15th in regard to Photographing the 1794 CMM #3b.

June 15, 1982

Dear Stan,

The enclosed letter from Roger S. Cohen, Jr., dated June 1, 1982, speaks for itself. My draft of a reply is attached. Jack Collins has the original of Roger Cohen's letter and a copy of this reply. I have instructed him to do nothing (aside from discussing the matter with his attorney) until he has heard from you.

This is evidently the production of a man who chooses to regard me as his rival, though I do not in any way regard him as mine. He read the ms. of Encyclopedia of U.S. Half Cents at Jack Collins's invitation, at the March 1982 EAC meeting (where I was not present), and decided to take amiss what was never so intended. His book (both 1971 and 1982 editions) attempted less and accomplished less. He seems to think that the timing of the announcement of my Encyclopedia was aimed at his own book; the truth is that Jack Collins had been for many years attempting to persuade me to update the two previous fragmentary manuscripts, and at least from my end the timing had everything to do with his arrangement with you, and nothing with Cohen's actions. We would have proceeded as we did whether or not Cohen published anything.

Cohen claims (in person) that I have systematically ignored his requests for research data that would have contributed to his book, that I "have had it in for him", and that I have had (as quoted in his letter) a "program of non-recognition of the existance (sic) of ~~his~~ my (Cohen's) book." On the contrary: the few communications I have had from this man were couched in such terms as did not make me feel under any obligation to give him unpublished research results, particularly as in the earlier years these were, as I knew with certainty, too incomplete to solve Cohen's problems. His writings to me in and out of the pages of Penny-Wise were, one and all, argumentative, tendentious, abrasive, and not calculated to make me willing to go to any major efforts on his behalf. My accompanying reply to his false, malicious and libelous charges of plagiarism reiterates that in my Encyclopedia of U.S. Half Cents I have credited him with his actual contributions.

YOu are invited to read his book and decide for yourself if it is anything I would have had the slightest desire to copy from. I do not have a spare copy of the manuscript, and it would take considerable time to have one xeroxed (502 pp.), quite aside from its not embodying editorial changes subsequently made, with my consent, by Collins and Jon Hanson and Alan Meghrig.

You know as well as I do why it is important that this be kept out of court. I am therefore asking for your advice.

Thanks,

This is in reply to a letter from Roger S. Cohen, Jr., dated June 1, 1982, which falsely and libelously accuses me of plagiarism.

I HEREWITH DENY ANY AND ALL SUCH ALLEGATIONS, ACCUSATIONS, OR CHARGES.

My replies to his specific allegations follow.

1. Cohen says 'There is a great amount of information which has been plagiarized from my 1971 copyrighted book "American Half Cents."

Common sense will confirm to any objective observer that anyone who copies another's ideas is likely to be blamed for the other's errors. I cannot afford any such risk. I have too much respect for scholarly courtesy to tolerate such behavior--in myself or anyone else. Detection is too easy, and the damage to my credibility would be irreparable. Accordingly, over the last thirty years, in consonance with scholarly practice of centuries, wherever I have derived information from other sources, I have credited the latter. In my Encyclopedia of U.S. Half Cents (hereinafter EHC), Roger S. Cohen Jr. is repeatedly credited as a source of specific information of many kinds.

2. Cohen cites as among 'the most prominent examples' of such alleged plagiarism 'the idea that 1797 dated coins were struck in 1800.'

I credited this very idea to him on page 171 of the ms. of EHC! In October 1981, when I began intensive work on this book, the Cohen chronology was one among several possible alternative sequences for the coins dated 1797 and struck in 1797 and later years. During ensuing weeks, many thousands of half cents became available for study and photography, becoming the database for documenting die states, planchet stock, and overstrikes. They belonged to collections, dealers' stocks, and institutions; many were unfamiliar to me, some never previously attributed, and they forced numerous revisions in my previous (unpublished) conclusions. The plan was to illustrate every known die state if a sharp enough specimen could be located. Die state evidence is absolutely crucial to emission sequence for varieties and subvarieties. At the same time, Alan Meghrig kindly loaned me documentation on early Mint conditions, some being printed reports, the vast majority however being photocopies of documents from the National Archives, some not examined since 1951--long before I had become aware of some of the problems these could aid in solving. To decide among the possible chronologies for 1797, I had to find a sequence which would best fit and most closely correlate with (1) records of planchet shipment and preparation, (2) coin delivery dates, (3) die state evidence for all subvarieties (coins from the same dies on different planchet stock), (4) approximate numbers surviving of each variety and subvariety. Among the coins shown me were overstrikes of the 1797-dated "Low Head" type, some on cut-down cents dated 1798 or identifiable as from 1798-dated dies, some from varieties known on other grounds to have been struck in 1799. Many of these were hitherto unrecorded. Previously available overstrikes of this kind were equivocal as to whether the 1797-dated half cent die impressions preceded or followed the cent die impressions; this ambiguity was removed by the new coins, which must have been struck in 1799 or later, long after exhaustion of token stock planchets of spring 1797 which had in turn followed earlier batches of overstrikes (cent stock planchets). My adoption of a chronology for 1797 substantially like Cohen's is based on independent research: similar conclusions on different

evidence. I remained fully prepared to find and publish, should evidence require it, a chronology different from Cohen's or any previous attempts -- as in fact I did for both 1794 and 1804. Had I published a different chronology for 1797, Cohen could justly have attacked me for inconsistency with the evidence marshaled in EHC.

3. Cohen cites also as alleged 'plagiarism' 'the placing of an 1803 dated coin as a coin struck in 1805.'

In previous studies through 1980 I had not solved to my own satisfaction the chronology of 1803, because I had not addressed the problem of punch linkage and punch substitution for 1802-08 half cent dies as a group. This procedure became essential during preparation of EHC, resulting (with die state information derived from examination of coins as mentioned above) in the tabulation on pp. 226-7 of the ms. of EHC. The Eleven Berry die, found with obverses dated 1803 and 1805, is the twin of 1805 No. 3 reverse, and shares letter punches with it but with no other dies of 1803-4; for which reason I came to the conclusion that both reverses were made in 1805, close together in time. In addition, the obverse die of 1803 Eleven Berries shows that this use long followed its two other mulings. Both considerations dictated the chronology I adopted, replacing all previous attempts, and differing (for 1804) materially from anything previously published, though agreeing in certain particulars with previous attempts by other writers including Cohen.

4. Cohen says I was 'forced by other persons present to read certain sections of my book in regard to 1797.', at the 1981 Long Beach convention

This is completely false. Various collectors asked me if I had seen the dummies or page proofs of his 1982 edition, then in preparation. I had not, and on my own time briefly looked them over in Cohen's absence. I concluded, in great disappointment, that the book answered none of my needs, that its emission sequence for 1794 was incorrect, that its emission sequences for later years were dubious, and that its failure to provide equivalents to previous attribution numbers made collectors' task more difficult than it need be.

5. Cohen says that I have 'made available to the public certain proposed manuscripts' and that they embodied an order of presentation differing from his own, but that in the meantime, after reading his 1971 book, 'a remarkable metamorphosis has occurred in the proposed manuscript...which can only be attributed to plagiarism....'

My abandoned manuscript of 1956 and the fragment of 1966 were never 'made available to the public': they were photocopied by persons unknown, without my knowledge or consent, and against my express wishes! I was long since aware that both contained errors and gaps I had no wish to disseminate. Some of these were corrected in my Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Proof Coins, 1722-1977; others could be corrected only in the course of the abovementioned researches leading to the finished text of EHC. I deny any implied connexion with perusal of Cohen's book.

6. Cohen says 'It is clearly evident that prior to October, 1981, your author had indeed never read my 1971 book "American Half Cents." Your author has also stated on many occasions that he "had never seen a copy of Roger's book." This statement is totally false as he was one of the first persons to peruse my book at the EAC meeting at Kennedy Airport, NY, in 1971!'

Leaving aside the contradictions between Cohen's first and third



quoted sentences, and the unlikelihood that the mentioned meeting was held within the airport, I must regretfully interject a personal note. In 1971 I was on prescribed medications whose side effects were like those of the strongest antihistamines. Accordingly, my memories of that EAC meeting are not as clear as they should be. I would therefore be unable to testify under oath whether I had ever physically handled a copy of Cohen's book on that occasion. But this much I can swear to: At any EAC meeting, there would have been insufficient time to 'peruse' any book. Webster's Second International Unabridged Dictionary defines peruse as "read carefully or critically for revision or study." Brief examination of the book (1981) left me with the impression that I would have to do my own research independently of Cohen's, and that whether or not any of my results would match any of his must depend on data not printed in his book.

I do not see how this 1971 EAC meeting is germane either to his charges or my replies.

7. Cohen demands, as a price for avoiding a lawsuit, 'recognition of my (Cohen's) contribution to various aspects of Half Cents in the section where this information is set forth in your proposed book as that of your author.'

There is no such section in EHC. Cohen's contributions are properly footnoted as above mentioned, like everyone else's.

8. Cohen further demands 'The standard of measure of contribution will be information in both my (Cohen's) 1971 and 1982 copyrighted editions of "American Half Cents."'

I do not understand what Cohen means by this, or what he is demanding.

It is hardly necessary to remind anyone that my manuscript was completed before Cohen's 1982 book was published. Any reference to Cohen's 1982 edition is therefore irrelevant.

If Cohen means that he demands to be credited for all information in which his two editions agree with my book, I must respectfully decline, on the grounds that such credit lines to him would falsely and misleadingly attribute to him researches he did not cite in either edition, and conclusions I reached on grounds independent of his publications. Should any of my conclusions prove erroneous, I am certain that he would not wish to be credited with my errors!

9. Cohen further demands that 'The review of my (Cohen's) 1971 copyrighted book in your proposed book (EHC) be objective and not belittling as I (Cohen) read in my (Cohen's) perusal of your manuscript in March, 1982.'

The review in question was worded as objectively as the other 30-odd entries in that section. Nothing therein can be construed as false or prejudicial about Cohen's descriptive or historical material. For the benefit of all concerned, the relevant paragraph is copied verbatim on the following page (Appendix).

It would be a pity were this unfortunate quarrel to lead to court. No matter who might win, the result would certainly be only escalating dissension, ill will, and polarization--nothing constructive.

I invite any objective observer to read my book and Cohen's, and decide for himself as to the merits, if any, of Cohen's allegations. I have no doubts myself as to the result!

Respectfully submitted,



## APPENDIX

## I. From the manuscript of EHC (ms. p. 18):

"The next publication dealing at length with half cents was Roger S. Cohen Jr.'s American Half Cents, the Little Half Sisters\* ([Bethesda, Md.,] the author, November, 1971; 1,000 copies). This book has the advantage of dropped-in illustrations above the description of each individual variety--and the disadvantage of picturing some coins so worn that critical details are obscured, notably in 1793-95, 1797, 1804-06, 1809; even Jules Reiver's photography hardly helps here. In addition, Cohen omits the proof-only years, relegating proofs of all kinds to an appendix called 'Other Half Cents,' into which category he also dumps the 1811 Mickley 'restrike', the 1837 token, electrotypes, casts, and 'other facsimiles'. Granting that proofs do belong in a separate category, this still seems a little extreme! On the other hand, his book does quote Archives records of planchet shipments and deliveries of finished coins, helping to substantiate his theories about quantities minted of particular dates (very different from figures given in official reports). A revision is in press."

\*The subtitle is from Dr. Warren Lapp, who drew his inspiration from Paul Carter's 'The Unwanted Little Sisters,' Penny-Wise III:43 (March 1969)."

## II. From the manuscript of EHC (ms. pp. 225-7)

"Here, then, is the sequence of die combinations, struck between the beginning of 1804 and ~~mm~~ late 1806--early 1807. Notations like 04.1 = Obverse 1 of 1804, 04.A = 1804 Reverse A; a dagger (†) means that the die in question was so badly damaged that it could not be repaired, and was discarded, ending that die combination. For convenience, both Gilbert and CMM equivalents are given.

"DIES	G	CMM	
1803.2--04.A	3	3	States I--III.
04.1--04.A	6	1	States IV through VII alternating with the 1803
03.2--04.A	3	3	die--probably more than once. Both dies set aside.
04.2--04.B	10	4	Low 4. Perfect and cracked obv. and rev.
†04.2--04.A	--	2	Low 4. Rim break over RTY.
04.1--04.A	6	1	States VIII, IX alternating with the 1803 die.
†03.2--04.A†	3	3	States IX, X.
04.1--04.B	--	3	Shortly after this combination began, obverse die was injured by striking a bolt, becoming "Spiked Chin".
04.1a-04.B†	11	5	Rev. shattered. "Spiked Chin."
04.1a-04.C†	9	7	Rev. broke heavily at rim.
04.1a-04.D†	8	6	Rev. broke heavily at rim.
†04.1a-04.E	7	8	Obv. broke above LIBE to rim.
†04.3--04.E	5	9	Obv. broke above RTY to rim.
04.4--04.E†	4	10	Rev. broke down at R and wreath.
Issues of 1805			
05.1--04.F	1	1	Stemless. Obv. with broken R as on 1804 obs.
04.5--04.F	2	13	Perfect obv. die. Plain 4. Obv. cracking.
†04.4--04.F	3	12	Obv. clashed, rusted, broken at rim.
04.5--04.F	2	13	Cracked obv. die. Rev. rim crumbling.

"DIES	G	CMM	
04.5--04.G	1	11	Rev. buckled.
†04.5--04.F	2	13	Obv. cracked, rusted, borders gone.
03.1--05.B	1	4	Rev. 1803.D, twin of 1805.C. Eleven Berries.
05.2--05.B	4	2	Sm.5, stems. Normal R, unlike 1804 obvs. Rev. to vault.
†05.2--05.C	3	3	Obv. severely buckled, cracked.
†05.3--05.C†	2	4	Large 5. Obv. shattered, rev. rim break. Coinage Suspended
†06.1--06.A	2	2	Sm. 6, stems. Obv. clashed, rusted, cracked.
06.2--06.A†	--	3	Sm. low 6, stems. Rev. "cud" break.
06.2--04.F†	1	1	Stemless. Rev. rim breaks advanced. Obv. clashed
†06.3--06.C	3	3	Lg. 6, stems. Obv. cracked through ERTY. Rev. held for 1807 use.
07.1--06.C	1	1	Obv. breaks at rim, rev. wears down.

"I placed the group of six combinations beginning with the stemless 1805 before the group of four beginning with the 1803 Eleven Berries because this 1805 obverse was made earlier; it shares the broken R punch with several 1804 obverses, whereas the other two 1805-dated obverses do not."

To  
PR 1  
7/12/82

ALEXANDER & HUGHES  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
BANK OF AMERICA BUILDING  
8141 E. SECOND STREET, SUITE 510  
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90241  
TELEPHONE (213) 862-5161

A&H

MICHAEL T. ALEXANDER  
GREGG B. HUGHES

July 7, 1982

Mr. Roger S. Cohen, Jr.  
4701 Sangamor Road  
Bethesda, Maryland 20816

RE: Our Clients: Jack Collins and Walter Breen

Dear Mr. Cohen:


As you know from previous correspondence, this office represents Messrs. Collins and Breen in regard to their intellectual property rights to an unpublished manuscript on the subject of United States half cents, authored by Mr. Breen. We had corresponded with you, through Mr. Hughes of this office, on September 24, 1981.

Apparently since that date, you have not only published your own book, but have chosen to accuse Mr. Breen of plagiarizing from you! You have even had the hudspa to circulate a copy of the letter to Mr. Collins to at least six other persons in the field.

In that letter you had requested that Mr. Collins respond within one month or face legal action. Mr. Collins' first inclination was that he should not dignify your letter with a response. However, on advice of counsel, he has chosen to respond nonetheless in order to keep a clear record in the event of litigation.

Accordingly, I am attaching a copy of Mr. Breen's memorandum responding to each of the allegations in your letter. After reviewing it, I am sure you will see how unfounded your allegations are and will submit to us your written apology and retraction. In the event you do not, it will be you and not Mr. Collins who will face legal action.

Respectfully yours,



MICHAEL T. ALEXANDER

MTA/m  
Enclosures  
cc: Mr. Jack Collins

ALEXANDER & HUGHES  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
BANK OF AMERICA BUILDING  
8141 E. SECOND STREET, SUITE 510  
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90241  
TELEPHONE (213) 862-5161

A&H

MICHAEL T. ALEXANDER  
GREGG B. HUGHES

July 12, 1982

Mr. Roger S. Cohen, Jr.  
4701 Sangamore Road  
Bethesda, Maryland 20816

RE: Our Clients: Jack Collins and Walter Breen

Dear Mr. Cohen:

In reviewing my letter to you of July 7, 1982, particularly the first paragraph, a potential misunderstanding was pointed out to me. Specifically, regarding previous correspondence, this had been directed to Mr. Ronald J. Guth who may or may not have made you aware of the correspondence between him and this office. A copy of that letter is enclosed for your reference.

Respectfully yours,



MICHAEL T. ALEXANDER

MTA/m  
Enclosure  
cc: Mr. Jack Collins

*Not  
included*

9/27/84

JACK COLLINS

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF NUMISMATIC RESEARCH  
2840 INDIANA AVE  
SOUTHGATE CA 90280

Dear Jack

I received the enclosed in the mail  
I also got to see a copy!! of the Encyclo  
I noted an error (the first of many)  
You did not list me as a  
Contributor! When I note that one  
of my coins is pictured on page 198

Not hearing from you about  
this matter I will assume the  
omission was deliberate and in  
retaliation for omitting J. J. Hanson  
from my Second Edition, or some  
other reason known only to God.

When are you going to send  
me an appropriately inscribed copy  
of the Encyclopedia such as I  
sent you of my Second Edition?

This completes the "anomalous"  
letter letter I am sending you

Sincerely,

Roger Cohen

From the Desk of  
WALTER

THE "ENCYCLOPEDIA" IS HERE!!!!!!!!!!!!

Now you peons will use it!!!!!!!!

Your LORD and master has spoken!!

This colossal masterpiece will be  
used as the ONLY REFERENCE hence-  
forth on the subject of US Half  
Cents!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

To do otherwise will result in  
your excommunication!!!!!!!!!!!!

I have labored long and hard and  
all data is the gospel!!!!!!!!!!!!

Any other person is an ICONOCLAST!

I claim complete and absolute au-  
thority. All previous writers do not  
have my astrological powers!!!!!!!!

You will now read and be beholden  
to ONLY ME!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

10/18/84

Mr Jack Collins  
President A M E R I C A N I N S T I T U T E O F N U M I S M A T I C  
R E S E A R C H  
2840 Londonia ave.  
South Gate CA. 90280

Dear Jack,

I aint got a letter back from you about  
my free inscribed copy of the BIG RED BOOK  
Whats holdin it up?

I must say that I has (SICK) NO (SIC) been  
readin a lot lately in dat BIG RED BOOK. You  
know I have seldom gotten to sleep before 2 AM  
and then I is so tired of readin all that Bullshit  
and witten Notes I dont off read easy

How can there be so many mistakes everywhere  
and how about those Composite Photos that  
you didnt identify? Man you is going to  
have me answering questions from all sorts  
of people about them errors.

I called the Comptroller of the Currency here in  
Washington and they tell me that they was  
Not even in busness until February 25 1863. Now  
Mr Breen Says Right on Page 213 that they  
was in busness back in 1804. How can this  
type of Mistake occur?

Another thing I noticed was while you  
you has 501 Numbered Pages Plus then Calver  
Photographs, a total of 69 Pages is BLANK  
Does dat Number have anythig to do with the  
FAIRYLAND that put out de book?

I has got an appointment wid a  
Copyright lawyer He tell me dat to  
Copy my book can be the basis for a

COPIES  
TO

WRIGHT  
WILKINSON  
WILTS  
WILCOX

WRIGHT  
WILKINSON  
WILTS  
WILCOX  
WILKINSON  
WILTS  
WILCOX  
WILKINSON

KANE



lawsuit. He's got a BIG CASE Now so its  
gon to be a few months before he can  
see Me.

Sontin else. I heard that you had 7500  
Copies Printed of the BIG RED BOOK. What  
is you gon to do with them? I guess the  
Japs (Who I fought in World War II) (They damn  
Near Killed Me) ~~would~~ (Wouldn't that have been  
Nice?) gave you a cheap price and the  
Binding Job is cheap as hell. The Paper is to  
shish to use in My outhouse. Just the same  
do you think you has enough so that local  
Coin Clubs can give out your book as a door  
Prize Will into the 21st Century?

Well I hope you aint lost interest in  
all My rambling (SICK) NO! (SIC) but before I  
close I must say those Color Prints is  
a lot like the book as a whole. ~~they~~ they  
looks real good at first glance. Man I  
Nearly dropped My teeth when I first saw <sup>them</sup> ~~them~~  
but I see that de 1793, 1802, and 1803 is  
COMPOSITES. That 1803 is really Sontin! You  
Better tell Mr Breen about it it's a New  
Variety with obverse 1 and reverse C. Both  
dies is the same in the BIG RED BOOK and that  
Wrapper Book - you know COHEN. Amadder thin  
the 1831 has an 1836 Reverse. Why you  
dont even Declue in COCOR the <sup>only</sup> 1831 Reverse, I  
also Noticed that 1842, 1843, 1846, 1849, 1852  
and 1857 is restrikes and not Original  
Coins. 1852 is OK there aint NO original. We is still Searchin

So as I sees it them Color Plates is  
a lot like de BIG RED BOOK when you  
first sees it it looks great but when

(3)

you look closer you find it aint  
what it PER PORTS. (SIC) NO(SICK) to be.  
~~The~~<sup>In</sup> I shant your BIG RED BOOK is a  
Big load of SHIT. Interestingly  
enough a lot of people think the same  
as me. We's been ~~do~~ doin a lot of  
Talk on the telephone. We Plans to  
write another book We probably goin  
to Call it

AN ACTION GUIDE TO WALTER  
BREEN'S ENCYCLOPEDIA OF UNITED  
STATES HALF CENTS 1793-1857 WITH  
EMPHASIS (SICK) NO(SIC) ON HOW TO  
SEPARATE THE WHEAT FROM THE  
SHAFF-NO-CHAFF - I BEAT YOU TO A(SICK)  
NO-(SIC)

For a Publisher we Plans to get  
Mr Stanford Burst of New York City  
My original Publisher Mr Wigglesworth  
and Mr Shatt has retired. Mr Shatt  
is curled up in my lap now and Mr  
Wigglesworth is asleep on the floor

Well I hope dis aint too much  
for you and please dont have  
another Heart Attack. Dis aint NO  
Way out what letter - You might  
call it Way back East.

Yours Sir Your Most  
humble and obedient servant

Boyer

(over)

P.S. Mr Hanson don't seem to know much about the Condition Census Man, do you know How Many Mistakes he's Made? Not only do he have the Claims of ownership Wrong he leaves out an awful lot of Coins Mostly Cherry Picked by others since that lousy book with terrible photographs came out in 1971. Mr Hanson don't seem to be friendly to me or other people so he aint heard to much over the last 13 years. Next time you ought to get some one like me to help as I've forgotten more about Half Cents than Mr Hanson ever knew. Now How that sure a turnaround of Words. !!

8/29/84

N.B. It sees in the Coin World that you Copied for your Reason for the BIG RED book the same as me for my book. Don't you think you could be more Original?

N.B.B. The large Cent Collectors is too<sup>in</sup> for a big surprise if you do to them what you has done to Half Cent Collectors. The large Cent Collectors are in deep trouble if you fulfill your promises that ~~you made~~ at ANA in DETROIT were made for you

N.B.B.B. How about Printing this letter in "The Asylum" - You aint the editor but maybe you could send him a copy.

## A Few Comments on the Encyclopedia

By Frank Wilkinson

With Input from Bill Weber

I have been associated with half cents and half cent collectors for ten years. Roger Cohen's book American Half Cents has been the standard since then. I later read about Walter Breen's book on half cents in the bibliography of the 17th Edition of The Standard Catalogue (1957.) I wondered where the Breen book was. Well, as you all know, it is now on the market. As a half cent numismatist I've decided to comment on the pros and cons of the encyclopedia. There are several positive and negative features to this book.

First the positive. Many of the new half cent collectors of the past ten to fifteen years have heard about some established collections, but we've never seen the coins. The coins in the Breen-California collection, Groves, and Norweb collections have been said to be in a "Black Hole." Walter Breen has first hand knowledge of these coins, many of which are plated in the encyclopedia, and their pedigrees are given. Mr. Breen has also filled us in on the coins he has catalogued over the past thirty plus years.

Another very positive feature is that several coins showing how the dies deteriorated are plated. My favorite example is the 1804 Breen 5 State IV. This specimen shows that most of the reverse die breaks developed before any of the cuds.

The photographs of some high grade specimens show enough detail to see unreported marks in the dies. An example of this is found to the right of the date of the 1808 Breen 2. This mark also shows on the very fine 1808 Breen 1. A similar die injury shows on Miss Liberty's neck on the 1804 Breen 8.

Composite photographs are common in this book, although they are not listed as such. The most significant is the 1803 plated in the color section. The coin has Obv. 1 and Rev. C, which represents a die combination not previously reported. The other very significant instance we are aware of is the 1804 Breen 4 1B on page 232. This was formerly listed as a new variety by both Breen and Cohen, but it is now considered to be just an early die state of the 1804 Breen 4. I think we should have been shown both sides of the Breen-California collector specimen which is the finest known.

In my opinion the biggest single thing wrong with this book was the lifting of ideas from other sources without giving credit to the original authors. The most blatant example of this is in regards to the die emission sequence for 1803. On page 212 Mr. Breen skewers Proskey, Ross, and Gilbert for placing variety 4 first. But Mr. Breen formerly had made this same mistake as evidenced by the Breen numbering system of the Dupont collection. Mr. Breen explains there on page 212 why he now believes the 1803 Breen 4 was struck in 1805. This sounds very similar to the explanation Roger Cohen gave on page 48 of his first edition.

Another source error is that Mr. Breen credits Commodore Eaton as being the discoverer of the 1794 Breen 6a, but not the 1794 1b, 2a, or 3a. This is an interesting oversight in that these four subvarieties were reported by Eaton as being in his collection in the Nov. and Dec. 1921 issues of "The Numismatist."

Another source error is that Mr. Breen was not the first to number the rare subvarieties of 1794. Mr. Breen was shown the signature copies of Roger Cohen's 2nd edition in October 1981 by Bill Weber with Roger Cohen's permission. Roger gave proper credit for the discovery of these subvarieties and was the first to number them all. Nor was it fair game for Mr. Breen to criticize Cohen for errors in his first edition that were **corrected** in his second.

In summary, the encyclopedia has a great deal of information. But there are enough errors in it that one must be an extremely knowledgeable half cent numismatist beforehand to know what is correct and what is not.

November 10, 1984

W346 Owenthall MSU.

East Lansing MI 48824

Dear Dr. Haff,

I received your letter of 11/2/84 on 11/5/84. I sure seems as though the Postal Service is doing its job these days. I was pretty disappointed that my review of the encyclopedia would not be in the November issue of Penny-Wise. I read the letter to Roger Cohen over the phone, and he was very happy with it because you've essentially started an interchange with Walter Breen, which has not happened in about 5-6 years (w. Dr. Montgomery on the Proof-Only issues). Most of the collectors I've talked w. think it is at best a reasonable book due to Walter's not knowing what all the half cent collectors have been doing for the past 15 years or so. My own opinion is that Walter tried to <sup>write</sup> ~~have~~ a book that contained everything there is to know about half cents, which is an impossible task. But since he doesn't ~~who~~ know what's been found for the last 15 years, he's not even State of the Art, which is an attainable goal.

You had two criticisms of my review. To handle the first one, ~~have~~ write <sup>the title</sup> Critique by Frank Wilkinson with input from Bill Wabben. The second question you had was about attribution numbers. You asked, for instance, about 1808-1; that is 1808 Breen 1. ~~##~~ I used only the Breen numbering system. The 1804-5 state ~~II~~ is an 1804 Breen 5 Die State IV. You specifically asked, "What is 1804-4 1B?" That ~~was~~ a terribly funny question to Roger and me. We weren't laughing at you, but this is one of the most controversial issues in recent half cent numismatics. The 1B in the 1804 Breen 4 1B stands for Obverse 1 muled with Reverse B. In the critique



I sent earlier I did not state that what Wattle did here was a departure from accepted numismatic standards. You may ask, "What did he do?" He first of all is admitting that on page 232 he is establishing a die state of a variety almost as a different variety, ~~it~~ and the rest of the variety is described on pages 234-235. Secondly, his insinuating on page 232 that Roger Cohen was too stupid to know on his own that the 1804 Cohen 3 (the same as the 1804 1B) should be delisted as a subvariety. My point in the critique was that the finest known 1804-Breen 4 1B Ex Breen-California collector (a pseudonym for G Jon Hanson) should have been plated.

You may also ask, "How did you know whose coins were plated in the encyclopedia?" The answer is that someone anonymously sent Roger Cohen a package of a final draft of the encyclopedia covering the years 1800-1808 in July or August. This copy did not have any pictures in it, but did have spaces for the pictures of the coins and whose coin would be plated in which space. It is interesting to note that an 1800 plated on page ~~18~~ 198 <sup>state II</sup> is owned by Roger Cohen (and was at the time the picture was taken), and Roger was not listed as a contributor.

Blessings upon you and your home and hope you have a wonderful holiday season.

Very truly yours,  
Frank Willemsen



### Addenda

Mr. Breen has done his homework well in regards the Coronet half cents 1849-1857 (I personally don't think ~~most~~ of the proof only's should be on the want or need list of any but the wealthiest of collectors). He has shown that there ~~were~~ were two ~~circulation~~ varieties of the business strikes of 1854 and 1856 so that all you whist players will now need two more varieties to be complete.

Please add this to the 1st section of the critique dealing w. the positive aspects of the book.

WARREN A. LAPP, M.D., F.A.C.S.  
6505 NEWMARKET WAY  
RALEIGH, NC 27609  
(919) 872-5570

November 2, 1984

Dear Frank:

Thanks for your and Bill Weber's article reviewing Walter Breen's half cent Encyclopedia.

Unfortunately, it was received too late to be included in the November P-W, but it will appear in our January issue. In the meantime, I am forwarding a copy of the article to Walter Breen. Perhaps he will make a response of some sort which will be included with your article.

Before I type up the article in its final form for inclusion in P-W, I'm wondering if you might not want to change the first paragraph. You use the word "I" throughout the paragraph although your article has been written by both you and Bill Weber.

Secondly, I hope that you will explain your designations for me such as 1804-5 State IV, 1808-1 and 1808-2, 1804-4 1 B, etc, etc. I presume that the number following the date is the variety number, but is this the Gilbert number or the Cohen number? But what is 1804-4 1 B? (1804 - 4 1 B is cited in the 5th line from the bottom on page 3 of your article.)

I hope to have a reply from you soon as to the above.

Thanks for forwarding all the additional supporting material to substantiate your article. This wasn't necessary, but I appreciated it.

P-W for November is now being printed and will be reaching you soon. It is another big issue - 60 pages or thereabouts - and a goodie.

Thanks again for your continued support and interest.

Sincerely,

*Warren*  
Warren A. Lapp

Frank - I've written this only to you. I hope that you will let Bill Weber know accordingly.

WARREN A. LAPP, M.D., F.A.C.S.  
6505 NEWMARKET WAY  
RALEIGH, NC 27609  
(919) 872-5570

November 22, 1984

Dear Frank:

I regret that I haven't heard from you in response to my letter of three weeks ago. Would like to begin typing your article for inclusion in the January P.W.

I'm enclosing a copy of Walter Breen's rebuttal to your criticisms - it was received recently. The rebuttal remarks will be published in conjunction with your article.

Hope you had a good Thanksgiving.

Regards

Warren

## Frank Wilkinson Responds

I received a copy of Walter Breen's statements regarding my review of his book. I feel as though he has ignored the factual errors I mentioned that exist in his book. I shall respond to each of his statements in order.

I have, since I wrote the review, noticed that the 1794 Gilbert 7 Breen5 in the Alvord sale (Lot 30) has an unbulged and clashed obverse. Mr. Breen has ignored my statement that such a coin exists although such a VF-25 was for sale at EAC <sup>in 1982</sup> by the late Knox Ivey. Hence; I still maintain an emission sequence of 3-5-4.

I can understand that errors can creep into a book during the editing and printing process, but there are other sorts of errors in the pedigree section. The Miles, Cogan, and Arlington collector duplicate 1831 Breen 1 are all the same coin, but they are listed as three specimens. I find it interesting that six mint state 1795 Breen 2's are listed, but none of them have been seen by the compiler of the pedigree section or appeared at auction since 1938. This listing of coins from auctions of many decades ago whose current or intermediate owners are not listed is common throughout the encyclopedia.

It was obvious that Dr. Sheldon used composites in Penny Whimsy. However; if there are composites that we don't know about in the encyclopedia, how are we to be sure if the proposed die states are correct?

Mr. Breen again ignored what I wrote concerning the die emission sequence for 1803. The idea was originally Roger Cohen's, and Mr. Breen put himself forward as the originator of this brilliant idea. Please read the appropriate pages in the encyclopedia and Roger Cohen's first edition.

Mr. Breen again ignored what I wrote about Roger Cohen's second edition being in print before his book went to press. I received my copy of Roger's second edition in February 1982; on page 208 of the encyclopedia

an 1802 is listed as being sold in April 1982. Hence; Walter should have included Roger's second edition in his literature review and known that Roger did correct the errors in his first edition.

In summary, my opinion of the encyclopedia has not improved since I wrote my review nearly two months ago, but as you can see, I have found more errors in it.

November 28, 1984

Dr. Lapp,

I want to thank you for your willingness to handle such tough material as this and that you have been patient with my reply. It's OK with me if you don't print my rebuttal to Breen's response to me. I feel as though my rebuttal is just documentation like I sent you with my review.

I think I have taken care of the editorial considerations you asked about in your letter.

I read Walter's comments about my review to Roger Cohen long distance. He has promised a letter to you explaining the absurdity of Walter's saying that he, Roger, is responsible for the errors in the encyclopedia.

I personally feel that Walter's invective about Dr. Sheldon had no place in Penny-Whimsy. I have tried to not attack anyone personally, but am criticizing the person's work. Dr. Sheldon is no longer alive to defend himself; I hope that a few of his surviving friends will defend him. In my opinion, no one in the history of American numismatics has made nearly as large a contribution to true numismatics, the study rather than the selling of coins, than Dr. Sheldon.

I did have a good Thanksgiving. My niece suffered severe head injury in mid September; we thought she might die. She has made fantastic progress, and our family is grateful to the Lord for His mercy.

I hope to be contributing more to the pages of PW in the future, but for now, I must write my PhD thesis in biochemistry. I am involved in Fabry's disease, which is fatal. I hope to be involved in effecting a cure for these unfortunate people.

Thanks you very much for your help, and I wish you and yours well during the holiday season.

Best regards,

Frank Wilkinson

## 1984 The Year of The Half Cent

by Roger S. Cohen, Jr.

George Orwell, writing in 1948, could not have visualized that his transposed year would produce no less than 3 books in regard to Half Cents. In 1948 numismatic collecting of Half Cent<sup>CENTS</sup> was on a date and major variety basis as set forth by Wayte Raymond in the long defunct "Standard Catalogue" and his 5 page National Coin Album. The number of variety collectors by Gilbert could be counted on ones hands.

1984 is another matter. Walter Breen's "Big Red Book" has justifiably gotten most of the attention, both for its contribution to the body of knowledge of Half Cents and its incredible errors. However, Q. David Bowers, somewhat unnoticed, produced in that year two writings on Half Cents which are worthy of mention and review.

The first, "United States Copper Coins" has a chapter on collecting Half Cents which is broken into sections by type and the well-known pseudo coin, the 1811 Restrike. The writing is mainly an accumulation of personal observations over his 30 plus years as a dealer and the use of my First Edition for historical data. The use of my First Edition was done with my permission, but the text could have been improved by the use of my Second Edition, published in 1982, where a number of corrections were made. I thought it rather ironic that the author, on p 19, noted that my book, "concentrated on die variety characteristics, and offered little in the way of background information" when, in fact, the overwhelming majority of the historical data presented was copied word for word from my First Edition.

Overall the chapter on Half Cents adds nothing to the body of knowledge on the subject but as the price is low, \$9.95, and there are other chapters on both Large and Small Cents, and Two Cent pieces, based on Mr. Bowers' loquacious style, I would recommend its purchase for newer collectors.



The second effort by Mr. Bowers is a combination of a reprint of his 1962 pamphlet, "United States Half Cents 1793-1857", United States Half Cents by Ebenezer Gilbert (originally published in 1916), excerpts from Photograde by James F. Ruddy and Unites States Patterns etc. by J. Hewitt Judd, M.D., plus an "Introductory Survey of Half Cents" by Doug Winter. This soft bound accumulation was published by Sanford Durst. The purpose of this item is beyond my comprehension. The price is low, varying from \$7 to \$10, depending on where you buy it, but at any price, it cannot be recommended.

Advanced collectors may enjoy themselves by noting the many errors of Bowers' 1962 work mainly on rarity ratings and the typo errors in both Bowers' and Gilbert's works. The poor quality of the photographs make the Photograde section useless as well as the Gilbert plates. The value guide (p 79) authored presumably by Mr. Bowers means nothing. The same comment applies to Half Cent Proofs (p 80) where a listing by date is made of some of the rare proofs. It is noted, however, contrary to Mr. Breen's book there is no 1852<sup>Proof</sup> Original listed.

The Introductory Survey of United States Half Cents by Doug Winter NLG, appears to be the only original writing other than the value guides noted above. However, an earlier version of this appeared in C.V.I. Vol. 1 Number 1, a house organ of Steve Ivy Rare Coins, Inc. on June 1983. The "improved" version included in the book under review is anything but that, rather it contains even more errors and balderdash.

In summary, as previously stated, I cannot recommend this item to any person interested in the Half Cent area of numismatics. Advanced collectors may want to take time to note the many errors appearing, but it would just be a waste of time.

11/21/84

Dr Warren Lupp.  
655 Newmarket Way.  
Raleigh N.C. 27609

Dear Warren,

Frank Williamson has just read to me Walter Brauns rebuttal to his article in the up coming "Perrywine". I particularly take exception to Walter's comment in regard to my receiving Xerox Copies of the Stripped Best section and failing to send corrections to Walter. Apparently Walter felt it was my duty to him to send such corrections.

The criticism of such a statement on Walter's part is to be expected as Walter is now grasping at straws to explain away the incredibly poor scholarship of his latest effort popularly known as "The Big Steel Book".

Ushane the following facts speak for themselves.

- ① I received the Xerox Copies back in May 1984 in an Parcel Postmarked Phoenix ARIZ with No return address.
- ② No corrections, even if submitted, would have <sup>frased</sup> ~~frased~~ the paper as Walter's forgery as the printing was underway in Japan.
- ③ During the period in which the book was written it was made amply clear to me that no help or comments were wanted directly from me. Specifically in October 1981 I suggested to Walter that perhaps a joint effort on our parts should be done. Walter replied that this was impossible due to commitments he had made in regard to the book.

For Walter to now say that I should have helped him and therefore <sup>am</sup> responsible for the many errors in that massive accumulation of nonsense is totally preposterous.

Sincerely  
Roger

To. "Jack Collins" Americas most  
renowned and eminent numismatics literary  
COPROPHAGIST!!

Here is another wrapper for your  
lunch! Have a hearty Meal!

**AMERICAN  
HALF CENTS**

and don't  
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the

Much

**"LITTLE HALF SISTERS"**  
(Second Edition)

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the

A Reference Book on the United States Half Cent

Coined from 1793 to 1857

Accumulation  
of

**By Roger S. Cohen, Jr.**

Member: Early American Coppers Club #188  
American Numismatic Association #14814

LOGORRHEA

You are  
Working on!

I am Sir your most humble and  
obedient servant

Roger S Cohen Jr

3/3/82

1101 0122041704 4 00

BETHESDA MD

20816

12/2/84

# JOIN WORLD

911 Vandemark ad.

Sidney Ohio 45367

attention: Thomas Ehler, advertising manager.

Dear Mr. Ehler:

It would be regrettable a Postcard to the enclosed advertisement which appeared on Page 22 of your November 28<sup>th</sup> 1984 issue.

The statement attributed to Me is taken out of context!

I wrote a letter to the AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF NUMISMATIC RESEARCH in which I pointed out a small number of the many errors in that book. The full sentence which I wrote is as follows.

" SO AS I SEES IT, THEM COLOR PLATES IS A LOT  
LIKE DE BIG RED BOOK. WHEN YOU FIRST SEES ~~EE~~ IT  
IT LOOKS GREAT BUT WHEN YOU LOOK CLOSER YOU  
FIND IT AINT WHAT IT PURPORT, TO BE "

So, it helps that the reference to my statement in them should be deleted from any further advertising ~~of~~.

*Sinerea yam.*

Baker & Co. Chem. L.

W Zeeen  
Box 355  
Berkeley CA 94708

11/27/84

Dear Walter,

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I have sent to Doc Lapp in regard to your rebuttal to Frank Wellman and Bill Wickers review of your book.

I do not appreciate you dragging me into this in your efforts to cover up for your lack of knowledge of the subject matter. This is particularly so when you have requested every effort on my part to work with you in the Past.

In addition you have done everything possible in your book to discredit me and my research. As more than one person has commented "the put down of you and your book is hard to believe". In your efforts you have made yourself more of an ass rather than a scholar.

I will also add that I have noted many places where you have plagiarized my book and I can prove this!! Whether I will proceed in a legal matter rests on a number of factors.

Despite all the above I consider your book with all its errors <sup>to be a</sup> contribution to body of knowledge of Half Cent. It needs major editing!! I hope to be able to work into my third edition that part which is a farward step in my opinion.

It is also evident to me that our styles of writing are quite different as well as our basic outlook on life which I believe pretty well precludes any degree of cooperation in the future.

Jo:

Roger S. Cohen Jr.  
4701 Sangamore Rd.  
Bethesda, MD 20816

**Coin World**  
THE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THE ENTIRE NUMISMATIC FIELD

P. O. BOX 150  
SIDNEY, OHIO 45367

SUBJECT

Your letter of Dec. 2

12-10-84

FOLD ↓

DATE

Dear Mr. Cohen,

We received your letter concerning the ad run by Meghrig that appeared in the Nov. 28 issue of Coin World. We appreciate your bringing this to our attention. The ad in question is not scheduled to run at any future date.

Sincerely,  
COIN WORLD

*Candie Stayton*  
Candie Stayton  
Advertising

11/29/84

Warren A Lapp M.D.  
6505 New Market Way.  
Raleigh N.C. 27609

Dear Warren,

As a follow up of my letter to you of 2 days ago the change has occurred to me that if your ~~edit~~ edited out Walter Breens Comment on his rebuttal as to the Wilkinson-Weber review <sup>the reference</sup> as it refers to me then there would be no reason to refer to my letter of 2 days ago.

The thing that I see coming is a never ending series of letters each of which takes shots at another person. The Wilkinson-Weber review was done by them. Walter has interjected me into the controversy which if it appears in the pages of P.O. I feel compelled to answer.

I do plan a rebuttal to Walter book that will be undertaken but not on the pages of P.O. I plan to publish sometime next year.

What are your thoughts

Sincerely  
Bagen



2/2/85

Mr Jack Robinson  
McLaughlin & Robinson Coin Co.  
155 Maple ave West  
Po Box 639  
Ulema VA. 22180

Dear Jack,

Lat 26 in your up Comig Sale of 2/16/85  
has informatu taken from THE ENCYCLOPEDIA!

However, There is more to tell about this  
Coin which was omitted from THE ENCYCLOPEDIA!

→ either by design or ignorance but just the  
same it May help any interested bidder.

This Coin was acquired by Me at the "Pauls"  
Sale in 1970. It's the plate Coin for #11  
of 1804 in my first edition. I disposed of  
it to Tetterbaert who in turn Consigned it  
to the WINTER Sale. I have lost track of it  
as while it is a ~~very~~ Nice Coin it doesn't  
make the Condition Census as I understand it.

A word about Quotes from The ENCYCLOPEDIA!  
There are incredible Mistakes in it both of  
omission and Comission. If you will Notice  
the Coins belonging to CALIFORNIA COLLECTOR are  
affmost all overrated. To Me it is a  
Sales Pitch for Hansons Collection. I could  
cite Countless examples.

An example of an error of Comission  
has to do with the 1794 #7 (C+B are same) which  
starts with the Stickney Sale of 1907 and  
goes through the RAWLS Sale to Me  
(ARLINGTON COLLECTOR.). At the ANS Meeting recently  
I looked at the Plate in the Stickney Sale

possible designs of  
William S. Barber, Calum Plate Coin

(2)

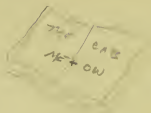
only the obverse was photographed but enough of the edge lettering was photographed so that it could be determined that the obverse was up relative to the edge lettering. The coin from the ~~the~~ BAWCS Sale while very similar in description and appearance (its photographed in M & Fird edition) has edge lettering in which the REVERSE is up. There fore the chain of ownership put forth in the ENCYCLOPEDIA! is

**BULLSITT**

Sincerely

Rogers

WILLIAM WORTH & CHATT, CO.



NUMISMATIC PUBLISHERS

SAMUEL B. T. WICKLESWORTH III  
H. GARRISON CHATT

5041 LEE HIGHWAY  
FALLINGTON VA 22047

HAVE YOU SAID TO YOURSELF "I OUGHT  
TO PUBLISH A BOOK ON THOSE COINS" BUT  
BE COME Mired IN THE DETAILS OF HOW  
TO DO IT? LOOK NO FURTHER. WE WILL SUPPLY  
THE KNOW HOW.

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PRINTING

LAY OUT

BINDING

EDITING

FINANCIAL

MARKETING

OUR RECENT SMASHING SUCCESS 'AMERICAN  
HALF CENTS' SHOWS WHAT WE CAN DO.

WRITE TO US AT NO OBLIGATION!  
LET US HELP YOU BECOME AN AUTHOR  
WE PRODUCE NOT PROMISE

# COLOR PLATES

- 1793 6-1 Tettchenhorst, ex Hank Rogers
- 1794 6-2 Tettchenhorst, ex Nunnsmeyer Limited
- 1795 6-5, B6c Tettchenhorst, ex Col. E. H. R. Green, Eric P. Newman
- 1796 6-1, B2a Partick, ex J. A. Duggan, Col. W. Cole, Batchelder
- 1797 64, B1c Hanson, ex "Dupont", Dorothy Nelson
- 1800 6-1, B1b Bequer, ex AW
- 1802 6-1, B2, Tettchenhorst, ex Holmes, Brobston, Miles
- 1803 Tettchenhorst [obv. 61, B1, ex Col. E. H. R. Green, Eric P. Newman]; Tettchenhorst [rev. 6-3, ex PM Shouers]
- 1804 6-5, B8 Tettchenhorst, ex Jon Hanson
- 1805 6-2, B4 Tettchenhorst, ex Col. E. H. R. Green, Eric P. Newman
- 1806 6-3, B4 Bequer, ex AW
- 1807 6-1, B1 Jon Hanson
- 1808 6-2, B3 Partick, ex William Van Rodan
- 1809 6-2, B6 Jon Hanson
- 1810 6-1, B1 Bequer, ex W. C. Blaisdell, DNB, W. K. Raymond
- 1811 62, B1 Tettchenhorst, ex Col. E. H. R. Green, Eric P. Newman
- \* 1825 Tettchenhorst?
- 1826 61, B1 Jon Hanson, ex Walter Breen
- \* 1828 61, B2 Tett [dov. ?]; Bequer [rev. 61, B2]
- \* 1829 ~~Bequer~~ Tett
- 1831 61A, B2\* Bareford [obv., ex William B. Hale, TJC: 463]; Tettchenhorst [rev., ex ANA 76-119, 351] <sup>Robison</sup>
- 1832 61, B2 Tettchenhorst, ex New Netherlands Sl: 1206; Stock's 3/15/75: 851
- 1833 61, B1 Tettchenhorst, ex Durs-Graues; Stock's 9/10/73 now McGuigan
- 1834 61, B1 Tettchenhorst, ex W. C. Blaisdell, DNB, W. K. Raymond
- \* 1835 ~~Bequer~~?
- 1836 61, B1\* Tettchenhorst [obv., ex Kazim 9/72-640]; Bareford [rev. B1\*, ex Hall, Bred]
- 1840 61, B1\* Tettchenhorst, ex Col. E. H. R. Green, Eric P. Newman
- 1841 61, B1\* Tettchenhorst, ex Col. E. H. R. Green, Eric P. Newman
- 1842 62, B2\* R. E. Nafziger, Jr.
- 1843 62, B3\* Tettchenhorst, ex PM Shouers
- 1844 61, B1\* Tettchenhorst, ex Col. E. H. R. Green, Eric P. Newman
- 1845 ~~Bequer~~ R. E. Nafziger, Jr. [dov. B3\*]; R. E. Nafziger [rev. B1\*, ex JHU: 38]
- 1846 62, B2\* Donald C. Partick, ex Jon Hanson

* 1847		R. E. Naffziger, Jr. [obv. B3*] YEU NOT CONFIRMED
1848	61, B12*	R. E. Naffziger, Jr.
1849	62, B2*	Tettenhorst, ex Col. E. H. K. Green, Eric P. Newman
1850	61, B1	R. E. Naffziger, Jr.
1851	61, B1	Blau, ex Collins viz Superior?
1852	62, B2*	R. E. Naffziger, Jr.
1853	61, B1	Hanson, Breen
1854	61, B2	Don G. Portrick, ex Lester Markin 68:160
1855		Don G. Portrick
1856	61, B1	Tettenhorst, ex Col. E. H. K. Green, Eric P. Newman
1857	61, B2*	Tettenhorst, ex Kreisberg-Cohen 11/11
1858		A. Kossoff, ex Guttay Bros. during 1930's



with the compliments of  
**GEORGE FREDERICK KORB**  
 Fine Numismatic Books  
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 Crestline, California 92325 USA  
 Telephone (714) 338-6527

4701 SANGAMORE  
RD.

BETHESDA MD  
20816

Sept 23, 1985

Mr Jack Collins

2840 INDIANA AVE

SOUTH GATE CA. 90280

Dear Jack,

You really blew it this time when you Catalogued Lot 161 in the upcoming Nyatt Collection Sale.

As you Noted this Coin was Plated in my 1971 1ST edition and you graded it VERY FINE 20! What an incredible bargain awaits someone! Particularly since it will sell you in on this Coin's Pedigree

The First owner I know of was Blaise Dantone of Atlanta GA. - this Coin was lot 615 of Lester Merkins March 28-29, 1969 Sale. Where it was Catalogued By WALTER BEEN AS FOLLOWS:

615 1868 G-2 NORMAL DATE. JUST ABOUT MINT STATE - 60 PALE STEEL, LIGHT OLIVE AND ORANGE, MUCH OF THIS REPRESENTING FADED MINT COLOR; TWO SMALL PATINA STAINS ON OBV., FAINT HINT OF CABINET FRICTION, TINY NICK AT O ON REV ONE OF ABOUT SEVEN IN SIMILAR GRADE.

I Purchased this lot at that Sale. I then sold it to R Tellenherst in 1972 and repurchased it in 1976. I then sold it to Jim Mc Guigan while at the Long Beach Show in October 1981. Jim subsequently sold the Coin Probably to the Present Consignor at considerably more than your estimate of. \$100 to \$150

I haven't seen the Coin Since October 1981 and Presume have the Photograph

that nothing has happened to it since then.

It also finds it rather surprising that you even mention the existence of the COHEN book on Half Cents. Particularly since you deliberately omitted my Numbers from all Lists. I guess it really doesn't make much difference since the Breen book for the most part follows my Numbering System which is the ORIGINAL and most thought out system.

It will be very interested to find out what lot 161 sells for. Perhaps it may set a new record as to price for the stated grade. Particularly since you graded it a good 35 points below its actual grade.

With kindest regards and the fond hope that you will speak to me the next time we see each other, Not like Baltimore where you ignored me much to my dismay!

I am Sir your most  
humble and obedient servant

Roger S. Cohen

C.C.: Mark Goldberg  
Superior Galleries.

4701 SANGAMORE RD

BETHESDA MD 20816

OCT 7, 1985

Mr Jack Collins  
2840 Indiana AVE  
SOUTH GATE CA. 90280

Dear Jack,

I just got word that Lot 161 in the  
Wyatt Sale by Superior was knocked down  
for 400-. Now isn't this a record  
for a U.F. 1808 Wow!!

I also understood that my letter to you  
of Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> was discussed freely at the  
reception prior to the sale. I know you  
call them like you see them but what  
about lot 149! It wasn't the condition census  
coin which you catalogued it to be!! Really  
you should be ashamed of yourself.

Again with fond hopes that you will  
speak to me and not include in further  
character assassination

Yours Sir Your most humble  
and obedient servant.

Roger S. Cechet.



3/18/86

Mr Jeff Bach.  
10358 Buena Vista Ave.  
Santer C.D. 92071

Dear Mr Bach:

It is indeed a shame that you have allowed  
your personal prejudice to overcome your common  
sense in sending me the letter that you did. The  
addition you have allowed your self to be used in  
creating <sup>more of</sup> a sides issue in the field of Neumastic  
research.

Your conclusions as to my thinking are quite erroneous.  
I am not upset at the publication of the "Big Red Book"  
Rather for 14 years I needed an ego massage to  
put up or shut up. He chose the former. We can  
each now express our opinion on the product. The  
errors in my opinion far exceed any good points  
As I stated to you previously I consider the book  
to be a shame. More than one collector has stated "it  
had to separate the bookworm from the Bullshit".

I do not plan to "Pick up my marbles and go home"  
rather I plan to work for hell bent knowledge devoid  
of pompous arrogant writing. I am also very much in favor  
of letting people know what I have knowledge of. I do not  
plan to keep it all to my self as someone did for 20  
years.

I must close now and hope that you do not consider  
this letter to be arrogant, illiterate and Tacky. I do hope  
you enjoy the fairy land you have chosen to  
enter.

Sincerely

Roger S. Cohen.

Breen's Encyclopedia-- A Review

Roger  
Cohen

John D. Wright, NLG

The promised book has finally arrived! The 'comparative review' I envisioned two years ago of Roger Cohen's and Walter Breen's half cent books can now be done. But

How does one compare 131 pages of well-presented research material and excellent photographs with 501 pages of well-presented research material and phenomenal photographs delivered almost three years later? That Breen's book was thirty years in preparation is evident from its content.

<sup>At</sup> The first impression ~~of~~ the title "Encyclopedia of Half Cents" seems presumptuous-- the subject appears too narrow for a cyclopedic coverage.

But a review of the contents shows <sup>the book</sup> ~~it~~ to be all that it claims-- an encyclopedia.

Over the last thirteen years Cohen's two editions have become the standard, the latest word, and the workbook of a new cult of collectors. I can't see that changing any more than I could see Mercedes running Ford out of business. Nobody is going to carry a six-pound book around a coin show. But many people-- I for one-- will want a reference that, in enjoyable clarity, covers more than they ever wanted to know about half cents. To coin a pun, Breen has really done it up brown. Cohen's book contains little not found in Breen, and Breen's book has much not found in Cohen. I would want both books. But if you must choose, balance your wants against your wallet. Do you prefer what you need for \$25, or everything for \$60?

Specific information on rarity and condition census is more complete and clearer in the Breen book, and is more current in the Cohen book-- an anomaly attributable to the fact that Breen's manuscript was completed before Cohen's Second edition (Jan. 1982).

As an object, Jack Collins has raised Breen's manuscript to a true art form. His layout is eye-appealing and easy to follow, his photography is awesome-- at a crystal-clear 3-inch diameter-- and his attention to the technical details of production are meticulous. This insistence on perfection is the main reason the book took almost three years from announcement until delivery. The only quality compromise is the card-paper cover (a cost measure), which seems cheap in contrast.

E D/T/M

The manuscript itself covers not only hard core variety information, but also such related topics as a literature survey, a detailed discussion of minting processes, half cent pre-history (1783-1793), a fully readable discussion on "The Bottom Line"-- dollars for half cents, leading into discussions on rarity, condition, and a fairly comprehensive photo<sup>5</sup>grading guide for half cents. Much of the background information alluded to in other publications has been included here in all its gory detail.

Practically nothing was left out, from excruciatingly detailed pedigrees, to detailed enumeration of die states, to the fabric of flan stock for various varieties, to discussions on related pieces such as the Smith counterfeits, the Washington half cent, the Edwards copy 1796, the 1837 token, and the proof half cents struck in 1857-1860. The final chapter, aptly titled "Whoops", covers every form of mint error-- most of them ~~come~~ on half cents. And then the "piece de resistance"-- eleven superb color plates of two-inch images of the most awesome date set of half cents imagineable. If your budget permits \$60 for a coin book, this is the best \$60 book you will ever find. You won't carry it to coin shows, but you will thoroughly enjoy it at home.

9/1/84

John D. Wright

1468 Timberlane Dr

St Joseph MI 49085

Dear John,

Thanks for your review of the Brecken Book  
I assume it will appear in the 9/15/83 issue.

Can you realize that the most negative  
review possible would be written by me but I feel  
that such a review at this point would serve no purpose.

What I am concerned about is the future. Each book  
written develops a certain amount of lore derived from  
it. Brecken book from what I've seen so far will  
have to await the verdict of collectors present & future.

For you to give it a good send off now is to be  
expected and to do otherwise would earn you the  
never ending enmity of Walter. The enmity of Walter  
towards me runs throughout ~~the~~ this book. You  
may have spotted some of it but as Bill Weber says.

"The put down of you and your book is hard to believe. There  
is obviously material which he could have only gotten from  
your book."

I could write pages in regard to Walter book and  
plan to do so in the form of a critique. It will  
probably take over a year to complete but the Numismatic  
World will know what <sup>some</sup> HALF CENT COLLECTORS of the  
era think of his efforts.

On going over certain parts of Walter Book <sup>a number of months ago</sup> I  
definitely felt that my book was inadequate, that it  
could be classified as a Hans book or only a guide  
to the subject but as I read Brecken book I realized  
that Walter's intention in writing his book was  
to bury me in an avalanche of words. Our styles  
of writing are poles <sup>apart</sup> ~~apart~~. I try to write in a

succinct manner as compared to Walter's  
loquacious manner. In comparing the two books  
I realized that I must compare the data presented  
what I have come up with is that Walter will  
take a full page to write what I wrote in  
a paragraph. Walter writes a paragraph to cover  
what I covered in a sentence. By necessity I then  
realized that the words of Goethe "WHEN IDEAS FAIL,  
WORDS COME IN VERY HANDY" applied to the situation  
of Mr Bondling.

The most repugnant thing I have seen in reviews  
of Walter's book is the emphasis on his "research". When  
I read this my "blood boils" I can <sup>identify</sup> ~~point out~~ virtually  
every source of his data. I have even been able  
to ~~point out~~ <sup>have been</sup> identify what sources ~~they are~~ copied  
from. Why then? My book has trips set in it far  
just such an occurrence. Further more Walter contradicts  
himself <sup>in</sup> many places of his own book. So far the most  
ludicrous item I've seen is on Page 213 where it is  
stated that in 1803-1808 the Mint was maintaining records  
of Boulton Planckets as an account to the COMPTROLLER OF  
THE CURRENCY! This office was not even in existence  
until 1863!

When it came to the Bondling Census Walter states  
the data came from Jon Hanson. What do I think of  
it? Just take a look at where Mr Hanson (CALIFORNIA  
COLLECTOR) has placed his coins and then look at  
Page XIII (first paragraph) of my Second Edition. On many  
varieties Mr Hanson states is Very Sketchy. You might  
compare it to what's being run in P.W. currently. Also  
again there is a avalanche of words to cover up  
for a lack of knowledge.

This is all for now and it's far more than I  
usually write

Sincerely  
B. Osborn